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RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 8988  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6035  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3714  
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 1059  
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0029  
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 2652  
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 3382  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0631  
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0545  
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 4208  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0468  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5448  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 6710  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3127  
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0374  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0016  
RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA 2639  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHHMUNA/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 000200

SIPDIS

NSC PASS TO DES WALTON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2020

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEAN](#) [XC](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: GOI CAUTIOUS ON US PARTICIPATION IN EAST ASIA  
SUMMIT

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Classified By: Political/Economic Counselor Peter Haas for reasons 1.4(  
b&d)

11. (C) SUMMARY: In a February 12 meeting with EAP DAS Scot Marciel, Indonesian Foreign Ministry (KEMLU) Secretary General Imron Cotan conveyed the Indonesian government's (GOI) hesitancy to endorse U.S. participation in the East Asia Summit (EAS) at this time, because of the likelihood that this would lead to interest by other parties such as Russia, and based on the GOI's conviction that EAS should be cultivated in its current configuration before any expansion.

Cotan welcomed in principle U.S. interest as an endorsement of EAS viability as a regional organization, and committed to discuss U.S. participation with other ASEAN members. Cotan expressed support for a U.S. Permanent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and said that KEMLU would work to help facilitate privileges and immunities for the Mission. End summary.

EAST ASIA SUMMIT  
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12. (C) In a friendly one-hour meeting with KEMLU Secretary General Imron Cotan, Indonesia's Ambassador-Designate to Beijing, EAP Deputy Assistant Secretary Scot Marciel said the U.S. wished to solicit quietly and informally the views of our friends in the region regarding possible U.S. participation in the East Asia Summit (EAS). Cotan responded that Indonesia had anticipated U.S. interest and that KEMLU was discussing the subject of expanding participation in EAS beyond its current "ASEAN 6" (China, Japan, ROK, India, Australia, New Zealand) configuration. Cotan averred that the "general feeling" was that the current configuration of EAS should be stabilized before opening up to new participants. There was no need for others to "join",

according to Cotan, since EAS was not an organization per se, but rather a "mechanism" for regional leaders to address certain issues "without strings".

¶3. (C) DAS Marciel noted that other ASEAN member-governments with whom he had consulted responded positively to U.S. interest. Cotan emphasized that the GOI had not taken a definitive position on U.S. participation and would consult with friends in the region. He pointed out that U.S. participation would affect other countries' desire to participate, noting specifically that Russia had accused Indonesia of preventing it from becoming engaged in EAS.

¶4. (C) Citing the Secretary's January 12 speech at the East-West Center, DAS Marciel explained that U.S. interest in exploring engagement with EAS was based on our desire as a Pacific nation to be part of the discussion on regional architecture. Cotan said that he viewed increased U.S. interest as a positive development and an endorsement of EAS as a "serious partner". Even if the U.S. did not become a participant in the EAS in the near term, he suggested, it might be possible as a start for the U.S. to engage as an observer or invited guest. Cotan committed to consider U.S. expressions of interest seriously and make a policy recommendation accordingly.

US MISSION TO ASEAN  
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¶5. (C) Cotan said increased U.S. attention to ASEAN was welcome and that KEMLU was "elated" about the U.S. intent to open a standalone Permanent Mission to ASEAN and send an

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Ambassador. In reply to DAS Marciel's request for KEMLU assistance in granting privileges and immunities for the new Mission, Cotan said that in general the Mission could expect to enjoy the same privileges and immunities as the U.S. Embassy to Indonesia, and that KEMLU would try to push for a resolution as quickly as possible.

¶6. (U) This message was sent by the Resident Representative of the Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs. DAS Marciel did not have the opportunity to clear this cable.  
HUME